

WORLD RAINFOREST REPORT

Rainforest Information Centre

P.O. BOX 368 LISMORE N.S.W. 2480 AUSTRALIA

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August, 1984
No. 2

Friends,

This, the second issue of World Rainforest Report is being composed at Cape Tribulation on the far North Coast of the Australian state of Queensland. The Centre has been here for nearly two months helping maintain the blockade which is preventing the "development" of the last sizeable piece of lowland tropical rainforest remaining in Australia.

Although World Heritage status has been offered the area, there is a struggle between the Federal Government and the Queensland Government which prevents the area from being protected by being listed. Please write letters as suggested in the enclosed article expressing the world's concern that Australia, the only "developed" country possessing tropical rainforests, should set an example to the poorer rainforest nations.

All 800 copies of the first World Rainforest Report are gone, and 1000 copies of this one will be printed. It is hoped that a Japanese edition will be available from the Rainforest Information Centre, (612 Kyoto-shi, Fushimi-ku, Fukakusa, Sanoyoshiki-cho 21-1, Tanaka-kata, Kyoto, JAPAN) while Earth First is printing an edition in the US to save on airmail postage.

If you wish to ensure that you receive future issues of World Rainforest Report, please send us a subscription. If you cannot afford a subscription but are willing to write letters or take other actions on behalf of the rainforests, please write to us and we will send you material as long as we can afford to do so. If you can afford a donation, this will help us make our information available to more groups.

Many new groups have indicated an interest in worldwide co-ordinated rainforest action since our first report in January, and several European groups are organising an action in defence of the rainforests of Kalimantan.

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We would like to see this network grow quickly to a size where we can successfully challenge some of the multinationals responsible for rainforest destruction, influence the governments that will oversee their protection or extinction and educate people as to the enormity of what is at stake: biological diversity, the future of evolution on this earth - rainforests, the womb of life, home to fully half of the world's ten million species.

More and more of our material is being translated. Please consider how this report might be translated into your language and made available. Also, please consider reviewing this report and submitting the review to environment or other appropriate journals.

We will photocopy any of our source material for 10 cents/page.

In the United States, rainforest activists are gearing up. Earth First! invited John Seed of the Rainforest Information Centre to speak on the world's rainforests as part of their 1984 Road Show. The show travelled 9000 miles over the freeways and in each of the 25 cities in which he and Earth First's Mike Roselle spoke on the topic, a rainforest action group formed. On April 28 in 25 U.S. cities, there were simultaneous demonstrations outside outlets of the Burger King fast food chain, the largest of the multinationals implicated in the destruction of the Central American rainforests for hamburger pasture. (See the last WRR.)

The March 20 issue of the prestigious Earth First! Journal carried the Burger King story on the front page while inside there were three pages of rainforest stories - Solomon Islands; Central American rainforest data sheet; protests in Denmark and Australia. Also, in our view, this journal is the best regular forum of environmental philosophy in the world to-day. \$10 in the U.S., \$20 airmail from 230 W 7th Ave. Chico, CA 95926, U.S.A.

Friends of the Earth, the Sierra Club and other U.S. groups are all moving on their rainforest campaigns.

FOE LINK, journal of Friends of the Earth International (P.O. Box 17170, 10001 JD Amsterdam) had a page on their tropical rainforest campaign and their newsletter, TRF TIMES (published by FOE U.K., 377 City Rd. London EC1 1NA, U.K.) The rainforest issue was discussed at the FOE International annual meeting in Portugal, and David Chatfield (FOE, 1045 Sansome St. San Francisco CA 94111, U.S.A.) summarises: 'FOEI proposes to establish a global network of activist organisations to work towards slowing the rapid destruction of the world's tropical moist forests.'



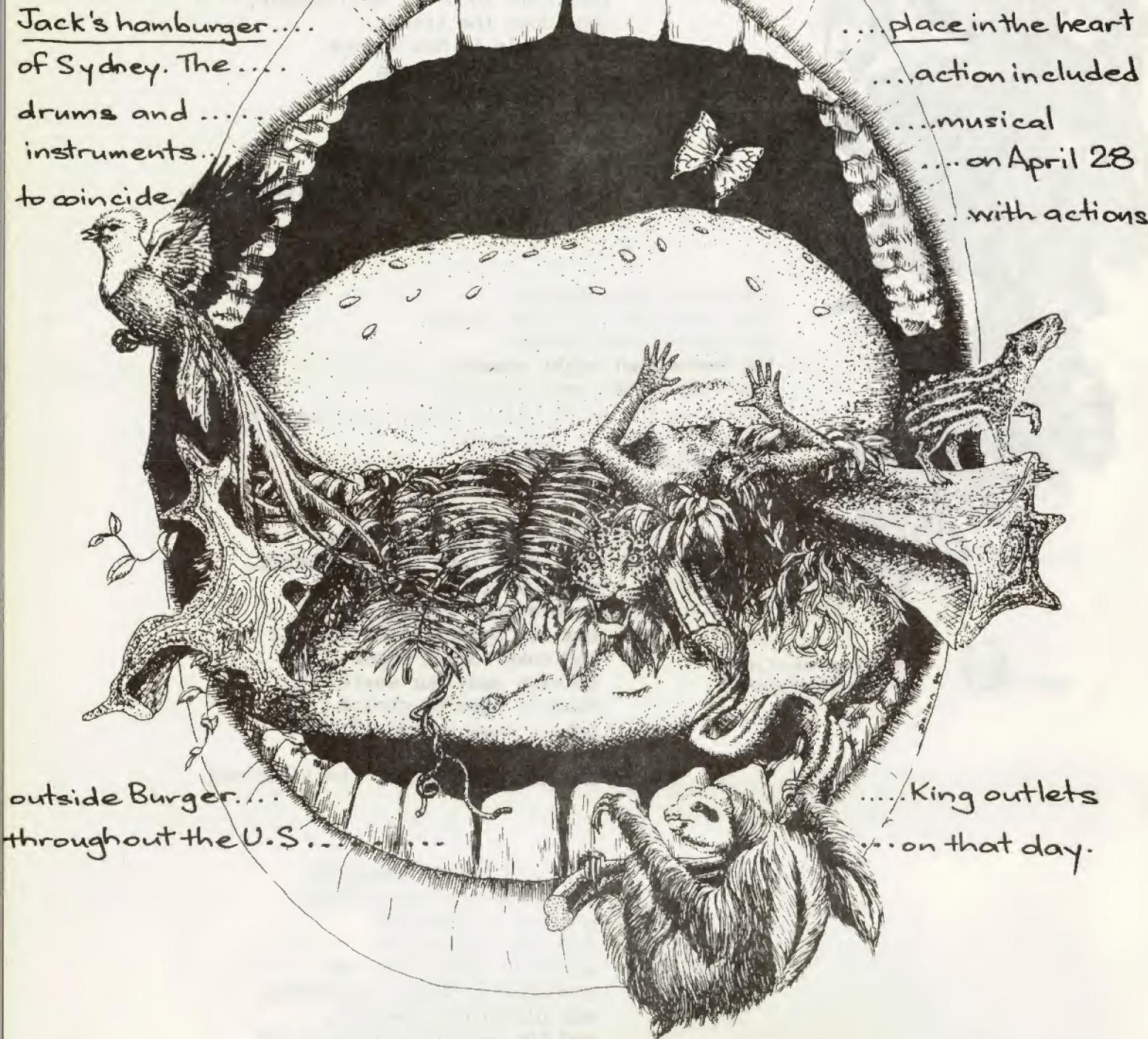
DON'T BUY HUNGRY JACK'S HAMBURGERS

3.

This drawing by Dailan Pugh
was on one side of the
pamphlet handed out
at a demonstration....

Jack's hamburger....
of Sydney. The....
drums and
instruments....
to coincide

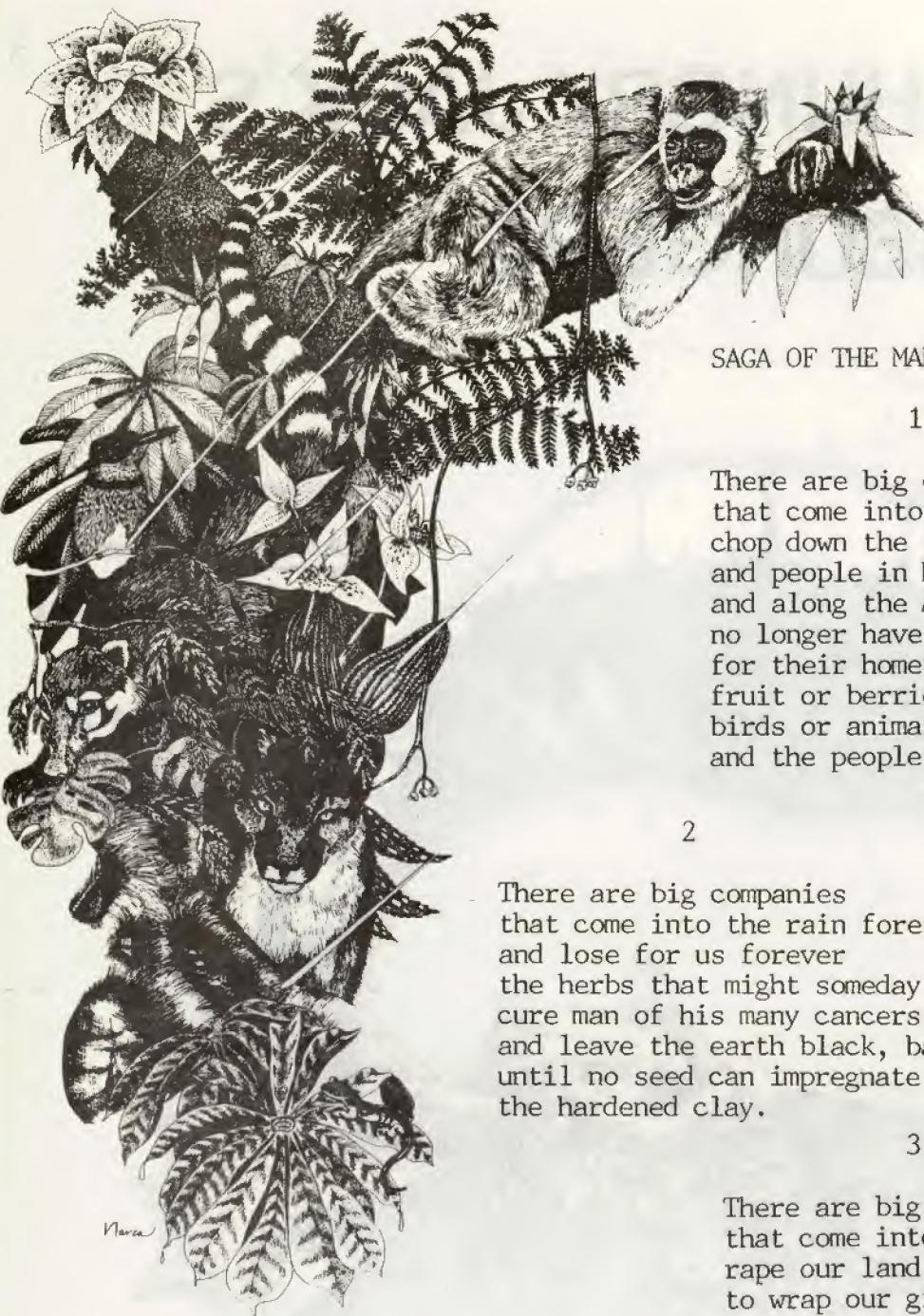
....outside Hungry
....place in the heart
....action included
....musical
....on April 28
....with actions



outside Burger....
throughout the U.S....

....King outlets
....on that day.

THEY COST THE EARTH!



SAGA OF THE MAMMOTH MONSTERS

1

There are big companies
that come into the rain forest,
chop down the trees;
and people in New Guinea
and along the Amazon
no longer have wood
for their homes,
fruit or berries to eat,
birds or animals to hunt
and the people of the rainforest die.

2

There are big companies
that come into the rain forest
and lose for us forever
the herbs that might someday
cure man of his many cancers,
and leave the earth black, barren and baked by sun
until no seed can impregnate
the hardened clay.

3

There are big companies
that come into the rainforest,
rape our land
to wrap our gifts,
box our sugar-coated cereals
and make toilet paper
to wipe away our waste.
Natives have no choice
but to move to the cities
to poverty, malnutrition
and the diseases of civilized men.

4

Some of the big companies
come into the rain forest
weaving a wasteland
They cut vegetation
which in turn warps the
atmospheric flows enwrapping
our planetary homeland,
and the painted primitive man
with his spear cannot keep
the big companies out
of the rainforest nor stop
the New Ice-Age about
to descend upon us.



WWF
World Conservation Centre
1196 Gland, Switzerland

SOLOMON ISLANDS

SUNSET NEWS, GIZO, SOLOMON ISLANDS, JULY 5 1984:

"Does the amended North New Georgia Timber Corporation Act allow North New Georgia landowners to refuse to have their land logged?

This question was among those discussed between national and Western Provincial government officials recently, and is among those which face the government, the landowners, the corporation and its agents....

LPT (Levers Pacific Timbers - see WRR1) is "becoming more uncertain as to the future of their operation" because of tensions in the North New Georgia area, the Minister for Western Provincial Affairs, Mr. Douglas Hiva, said in winding up the debate on the amendments in Parliament. "They have intimated a withdrawal of the entire operations if no measure is taken by government by way of legislation he added."

LPT is also said to have asked Western Province officials to intervene to help convince Simon Natu, a chief at Paradise, to allow land from Mase to Hepa to be logged. He has so far refused. The company is reportedly preparing to use its legal rights under the 1979 Agreements to begin logging, but fears of another Enogae-type incident might hold this back...

No logging has taken place on the land the 1979 Act called Koroga since the pre-dawn raid March 27 1982 by about 100 local men which caused an estimated \$1 million damage to houses and equipment at Enogae Bay, an LPT logging camp...

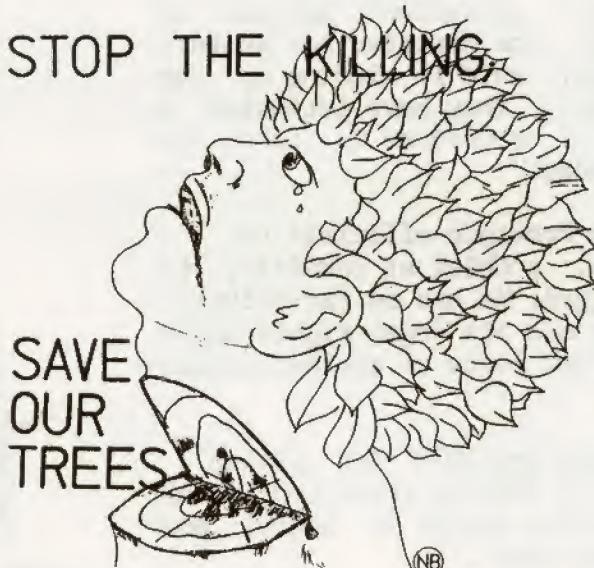
One critic (of LPT) is Vincent Vaguni, a Provincial Assembly Member and CFC Churchman from Tamanek in the Morovo Lagoon. He helped found a chapter of the Rainforest Information Centre, an Australian-based organisation which aims to raise consciousness about the dangers of cutting the tropical rainforest among world leaders and scientists as well as local landowners in places like the Solomons."

from Solomon Islands update - July '84, 6 pages

FROM THE SOLOMON ISLANDS:

Parliament is in session, at the moment, and the Forests and Timber amendment bill was one of those tabled for discussion the other day, which shuts many of the loopholes in previous legislation, and gives the Chief Forestry Officer the final say in approving an application for a logging licence after full consideration by all concerned - landowners, provincial assemblies, and so on. I listened to some of the comments made by ministers, broadcast over the radio, and I'm sure that you and John would have been delighted to hear just how surely your rainforest message has reached most of them, with their concern about what logging has already done to the forests and environment generally, the arrogant and insincere attitude of most overseas companies exploiting the natural resource, and so on. Opposition leader, Sir Peter Kenilorea, spoke of the Solomon islanders' thoughts of the land as being the mother of the people, and expressed his thought that the forests must be the father to provide the fertility, and how we must protect them. Ezekiel Alebua, member for East Guadalcanal also gave an eloquent speech, expressing his own lifelong kinship with the rainforests and the plants and creatures that dwell in it, and it is most apparent that consideration of the environment and conservation is taking precedence, in future negotiations involving tree exploitation, to economics, in spite of what the financial minister and his minions may think. Most ministers suggested that the amendment bill should be dated with retrospective effect to the mid-1980 or 1981 period, to provide

STOP THE KILLING.



This is the picture on a dramatic colour T-shirt produced by the Solomon Islands Rainforest Information Centre... Box 135 Gizo, Western Province, Solomon Islands.

The design is by the Western Province Premier, Job Dudley Tausinga.

controls over the current companies to whom licences were given by the corrupt former minister, Peter Salaka, but I don't know what the final decision is in this regard. Certainly, however, there is much more awareness; understand, and genuine concern about the environment, and the provincial assembly in the eastern outer islands have recently flatly refused any further negotiations with timber companies making application to exploit the few remaining big kauri trees on Santa Cruz and Vanikoro. Their MP is Ataban Tropa, the present Minister for Natural Resources, a former agricultural officer, and he is even encouraging tree planting around oniara, for ornamentation, apart from supporting preservation of the natural environment. Michael Evo, MP for Sta Ysabel, said that he thanked God that a cyclone had wiped out much of the forest in his area a few years ago, and a certain logging company had not proceeded with its intended operations. Another supported the idea of more Solomon Islanders' participation through the use of portable saw-mills, and urged government to persuade banks to provide reasonable loans for such projects, which would cause them to be concerned about their own land, and to provide expatriate advice on the operation of such small mills.

I distinguish ecology from ecosophy... Sophia-wisdom. Wisdom of household. And that is much more needed today than more ecology. Ecology can investigate any kind of insect or fish for a hundred years without improving anything about our relationship to nature, whereas if you have ecosophy, that is to say a wise relation to nature, then all the time you evaluate and ask "How can we get into better relation to this or that kind of nature?" Ecosophy is what we call normative in philosophy, which means a system of statements at least one of which ends with an exclamation mark and not a full stop. What ought to be, what should be, what must be. Such as "Every living being has a right to live and blossom!" And you never can get such exclamation marks in ecology, you can pollute the Atlantic ocean till there are only algae of different kinds left and it is extremely interesting from the point of view of ecology. "Very interesting. Now there are no fish left, how interesting." As long as there is science there, you say "What an opportunity to be living in this age".

And now there is investigation going on in National Parks seeing whether there are more or less species there in the long run and they find there are far fewer species, and we find that there must be such big territories for developing new species that no existing National Parks are big enough. So we have effectively stopped evolution, but that is interesting ecologically. No new species will appear, or mammals or birds at least. Ecosophy will say, it's very interesting, but I don't think it should be like that.

ARNE NAESS

Emeritus Professor of
Philosophy. Oslo University

ECOLOGISTS CREATE JUNGLE ISLANDS IN THE AMAZON

MANAUS - Manmade islands are being carved out of the Brazilian Amazon in a unique international effort. "It is probably one of the largest ecological experiments ever undertaken internationally," said Richard O. (Rob) Bierregaard, project field director.

The purpose is to understand what happens to the species of surviving tropical forests when deforestation takes place around them. This is accomplished by isolating one, 10, 100 and 1,000 hectare islands in jungle areas cut down for cattle ranching.

The project is a joint effort of World Wildlife Fund-U.S. and Brazil's National Institute for Amazonian Research (INPA). It is called Minimum Critical Size of Ecosystems Project (MCS), but the name turns out to be a misnomer. It implies that the 20-year-long experiment will eventually determine what the minimum size of an ecosystem should be to save all species within it.

But, as Bierregaard told World Environment Report, "The areas we're dealing with are so small compared to the real minimum critical size of an ecosystem that we'll never be in a good position to estimate how big such an ecosystem should be." Right now, he said, the best-educated guess is that it should be at least 200,000 hectares. What they are finding out is how an ecosystem changes in response to the changes forced upon it.

The idea for the project began in the mid-1970's when World Wildlife Fund scientist Thomas Lovejoy realized there was an "extraordinary coincidence" of possibilities falling into place. He had researched in Brazil and knew INPA. Also, there was a new Brazilian law requiring that 50 percent of any Amazon development project be left in forest.

There had also been for some years scientific experiments, discussions and disagreements over the loss or equilibrium of species on islands surrounded by water. This then was elaborated to include islands of forest surrounded by clearing. So, as Bierregaard said, Lovejoy had "an audacious idea" - to rearrange the geometry of the 50 percent of forest left standing so as to create large and smaller islands, near and far from the "mainland" to see what happened.

In 1979, they "traipsed around the forest with a couple of Brazilian woodsmen" and picked their potential islands.

Then teams of researchers descended on this steaming Amazonian capital to travel several hours north to what was still virgin forest. They studied and counted bird, butterfly, tree, seedling, ant and primate populations before the first tree was cut. Then, between June and August 1980, the first two reserves were isolated, of one and 10 hectares. By the summer of '83, five islands were cut from the jungle, one of 100 hectares.

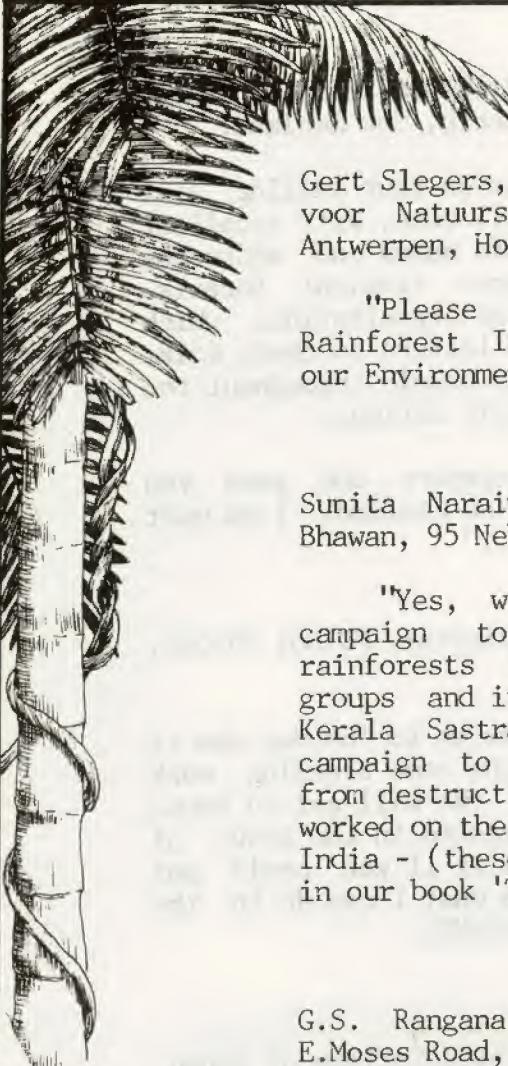
"We're studying now in what we hope will be the 1,000 hectare Area," Bierregaard said. This will be a one-of-a-kind; the smaller reserves will be replicated to see if the changes that take place are similar. All in all, he said, they are looking at 20 to 25 potential new islands. And there is hope that when the cattle ranchers have finished their cutting they will leave the project a patch of 7,500 to 10,000 hectares.

The study started small but has grown up to a more than US\$400,000 budget for fiscal 1984. When WER visited its headquarters in Manaus, there were about 15 people working on the project. "Last month," said Bierregaard, "we moved 50 people between Manaus and the project area, from VIPs to research assistants and graduate students."

The work they have done is impressive. They have captured more than 20,000 birds (which they let go after noting vital statistics that are then entered into the project's computer). Judy Rankin, an American who works for INPA, has collected more than 70,000 samples from 28,000 trees. It's the most extensive tree inventory ever made in the Amazon. And thanks to their Brazilian crews, "We've probably got the most complete collection of snakes in the Amazon," Rankin said. The project as a whole, she continued, "has to be one of the most complete biological inventories in Latin America."

The results of their studies so far are anecdotal, but already the smaller reserves are drying up, trees are falling or dying on the windward sides, there are not nearly as many birds, and, Bierregaard said, "It's boring to go there now."

"After 20 years or more, the one and 10-hectare reserves will eventually cave in," Bierregaard believes, "but the 100 and 1,000-hectare reserves will be a goldmine for research where the foundation has already been laid." LIBBY BASSETT



SELECTIONS FROM OUR CORRESPONDENCE

Gert Slegers, Extern Secretary, Natuur 2000, Vlaamse Jeugdbond voor Natuurstudie en Milieubehoud, Bervoetstraat 33, 2000 Antwerpen, Holland

"Please can we receive further information from your Rainforest Information Centre. We can use this information for our Environmental Centre for the Youth."

Sunita Narain, Centre for Science and Environment, 807 Vishal Bhawan, 95 Nehru Place, New Delhi 110019, INDIA

"Yes, we would be interested in participating in your campaign to protect the rainforests. Information about rainforests in India is unfortunately very scattered. Certain groups and individuals have been working on rainforests.. The Kerala Sastra Sahitya Parishad (KSSP) has been involved in a campaign to protect the Silent Valley - a tropical rainforest from destruction by a proposed dam. We at the centre have worked on the condition of forests in the north-Eastern states of India - (these are rainforests). This information is available in our book 'The State of India's Environment'."

G.S. Ranganathan, Ion Exchange (India) Ltd. Tiecicon House, Dr. E.Moses Road, Bombay, 400 011 P.O. Box No.6273 India

"Thank you very much for your letter and the information on the rainforests in Australia and the Pacific. I would certainly be most interested in the network you are trying to build up for an international campaign of education and action for the preservation of these forests."

Portia A. Nayve, President, Pacific Environmental Research, 111 Lacson Street, Mandalagain, Sta. Clara. Subd., Bacolod City Negros Occidental, Philippines.

"We are engaged in the research and development of Wildlife Conservation, Animal Liberation and Agro-Forestry.... We are interested of course in becoming part of the world rainforest action network.... We have published "Alternative Crops of the Philippines." We are also producing organic fertilizer from earthworm castings. We are also breeding grass owls for biological rat control. At present we are starting a search on one of our endangered species, a parakeet - all of these will lead to the establishment of a small park and wildlife, we hope."

Edward Goldsmith, Director, The Ecologist, Whitehay, Withiel, nr. Bodmin, Cornwall, England.

"I very much liked your article 'The Battle for the Australian Rainforest' and '130 Arrested in Australia'. We would like to publish something on your efforts to preserve the forest...."

Robert J. Gregory, Snr.Lecturer, Rehabilitation Studies, Massey University, Dept. Psychology, Palmerston North, New Zealand.

"Thank you very much for including me on your mailing list for the World Rainforest Report. It is well done, with excellent information. I am especially happy to note names and addresses of others joining in the fight to preserve tropical forests. Also it was a pleasure to note some names of organizations which are threatening the forests. Perhaps some letters to these folks could let them know more clearly that many people throughout the world do not agree with and do not like their actions.

I'll be happy to scan our local newspapers and send you items of possible interest on forestry in New Zealand. I am most interested in being on your mailing list...."

Peter Clayworth, Friends of the Earth Coordinator, PO Box 39-065, Auckland West, New Zealand.

"...I have passed your letter and notes on to Tom Hay who is head of our Rainforest Division and has done some sterling work for protection of forests in New Zealand. He will get in touch with you soon. I personally am very interested in the issue of Tropical Rainforests and would appreciate it if you could put FOE(NZ) on your mailing list. I will do what I can do in the way of letter writing, etc. on behalf of FOE(NZ).

Noritaka Ichida, Executive Director, Wild Bird Society of Japan, 1-1-4 Shibuya, Tokyo, 150, Japan.

"I am very interested in your activities for the protection of the rainforest because there are many endangered species of the birds in the rainforest. Our society was established in 1934 and main purpose of the society is the promotion of the birds preservation. We have 13,000 members, 67 chapters and 31 staff in this office. We believe the protection of the habitat of the birds is also very important for us human beings. As you know, many birds migrate from country to country and so the international co-operation is essential to the protection of these birds. We are now trying to establish a link of the bird protection societies in Asia and Australia.

We have some international projects and one of them is a campaign to protect the habitat of the Philippine Eagle. The Haribon Society is working hard against the destruction of the forest where this eagle is breeding and we made a postcard set of the Philippine birds and sold it in Japan to encourage the activities of the Haribon Society. It was a very successful fund-raising campaign. It is a great pleasure for us to co-operate with your society in the near future for the preservation of the rainforest..."

Lawrence S. Hamilton, Research Associate, East-West Environment and Policy Institute, 1777 East-West Road, Honolulu, Hawaii.

"I have duplicated your no.1 World Rainforest Report, and sent it around to the Tropical Forest Advisory Committee for the Sierra Club Program of which I am the director....."

Mahama Oumar, National Coordinator, Association des Clubs des Amis de la Nature du Cameroun, Garoua, Cameroun.

"Many thanks for your papers carrying explicit reasons for the campaign to protect the Australian rainforest and that of Solomon Island in particular, from destruction..... But how can we participate here in the application of pressure to discourage such multinational corporations from destroying the Solomon Islands forest? Some guidelines from you stating clearly how we can gear our action will be helpful."

Friends of the Trees, PO Box 1064, Tonasket, Washington, USA

"We are interested on information you might have on protecting rainforests through non-violent direct action. Also I see you have a 60-minute tape, I am interested in further information on that..."

Gerald A. Lieberman, President Tropical Forest Working Group, Rare Inc. 1601 Connecticut Ave. NW. Washington DC 20009 USA

"It is the hope of the Tropical Forest Working Group that we can develop an effective worldwide conservation network dealing with this important topic. Your contributions to these efforts can certainly improve our networking attempts. As soon as a brief summary of all the material we have received is prepared, we will send you a copy. Until then, best wishes for the continuing success of your projects.



Charles Secrett, Wildlife Campaigner, Friends of the Earth, 377 City Road, LONDON, ENGLAND.

"Would all Friends of the Earth International Groups please send me any information that they have on British Companies, or other British interests such as UK Government Aid programmes, which they know to be involved in tropical deforestation in their countries.

Friends of the Earth UK are currently preparing a Report on the activities of British interests in tropical deforestation. We desperately need current examples where tropical rainforest areas are being destroyed or damaged due to British interests. We are planning to publish our report in July 1984. There is already considerable interest in this country over the issue of tropical deforestation. We will be running a consumer pressure campaign to persuade companies either trading in hardwoods from tropical rainforests or actively engaged in tropical forest logging to change their policies to sustainable management, or to only deal in products that come from ecologically sound Forestry operations. We would like information on the names of companies, the areas of forest in which they are working, the extent of their holdings, what destructive activities they are engaged in etc. etc. Names, Facts and Figures are what we need..."

Delfin J. Ganapin, Jr. Chairman, Phil. Fed. for Environmental Concern, FBS, Dept., College of Forestry, Philippines.

"I have just received the World Rainforest Report No. 1 and I would like to convey my congratulations to you and your organization for the commendable work. I have xeroxed copies of the publication and shared it with my colleagues in the University, co-members in the Philippine Federation for Environmental Concern as well as contacts with relevant government agencies.

We are enthusiastic about joining the World Rainforest Action Network. Personally, my field is forest ecology and I have been working on compiling research information on tropical rainforests as well as organizing citizen's action to protect forest resources. The Philippine Federation for Environmental Concern is in fact now preparing for a vigorous campaign to prevent the lifting of our country's log export ban as this would again stimulate rapacious exploitation of our remaining forest resources in the Philippines. It is an inspiration to know that other organizations in other countries have similar efforts.

We definitely wish to forge strong linkages with other organisations working on rainforest conservation and protection through the World Rainforest Action Network."

Silvia Sanides-Kilian, Die Tageszeitung, Washington Bureau, 125 B Stribling Av. Charlottesville, Va. 22903, U.S.A.

"I am US correspondent for the progressive West German daily "die Tageszeitung" and focusing on environmental issues. The paper has asked me to write a report on the destruction of the tropical rainforests. This would be a good chance to get West Germans involved in your boycott campaign against Burger King. Please send me as much information as possible about the movement in Australia and about connections between the destruction of the rainforests and western fast-food producer interests."

Rene-Jacques-Weber, Okojournal, Mainaust 32, 8008, Zurich, Switzerland.

"Thank you very much for sending the Rainforest Reports, which I like to receive further because they are interesting. I will use parts of the while for further publication in the Okojournal, after translation into German. So I am looking forward to receive your views. As you may know, we do not have a Rainforest here, but our forest suffers on pollution and big parts of it are going to die."

Ghillean T. Prance, Director Institute of Economic Botany, The New York Botanical Garden, Bronx, New York, USA.

"Just recently I have been sent a copy of your World Rainforest Report no.1. as a member of the Tropical Rainforest Advisory Committee of the Sierra Club International. As I am active in fieldwork in Amazonian Brazil I am deeply interested in the fate of rainforests and so I would like to be kept informed...."

Professor Dr. M. Numata, Laboratory of Ecology, Faculty of Science, Chiba, Japan.

"Thank you very much for your letter and No. 1 World Rainforest Report....I remember well your action for the Australian Rainforest campaign. We have a great interest for such a movement. The Defence of Green Earth Foundation (I am a Vice-President, and the address is 2-17-54 Akasaka, Minato-ku, Tokyo 107, Palais Royal Akasaka Room 7127) is considering a campaign of tree planting for community/school forests and setting the preserved areas in the tropics to compensate our imports of tropical timbers...."

Dr. John Waiko, University of Papua New Guinea, PO Box 320, Papua New Guinea.

"Thanks for the copy of World Rainforest Report which I received this week.... I believe you have started an important linking tank which is going to have a coordinating flow of information about the rainforest. I have read the work of Dr. Webb who carried out an impact analysis on logging in the Gogol area (Madang Province, P.N.G.); and recently I have exchanged some offprints of materials with Norman Myer whom you mentioned in your report.... I shall try and write a short report about the rainforest in P.N.G.

Bill Trotter, 1543 Claymor Ave., Ottawa, Ontario, CANADA.

"I recently read the article about "Australian Environmentalists Unite Against Dam". by John Seed, which was published in "Alternatives". As an organizer of the Green Party in Canada and a member of "The Ottawa Greens", I think the tape "Nightcap Rainforest - Thinking Globally, Acting Locally", would be most useful information to help make our group aware of what is happening elsewhere in the world. The Greens in Canada, have also adopted the slogan "Thinking Globally, Acting Locally."

Think globally, act locally



Miguel Grinberg, Promundo 99, Casilla 60 - Suc. 14 - Buenos Aries 1414, ARGENTINA:

"...I am very much interested in getting engaged in the ACTION in defence of the rainforests...We are developing a network of environmental alternative groups in Argentina and in Latin America ... Next September, in the Argentine City of Cordoba, we will have the first national gathering of environmental NGO's ... Some 60 groups will be involved...The materials you sent are of the first quality for us, and we will be spreading them --in Spanish-- in our coming publications. I do a magazine named MUTANTIA..."

Mrs. Irangini Serasinghe, President, Ruk Rakaganno (Tree Society of Sri Lanka), 378/6 Araliya Gardens, Rajagiriya, SRI LANKA:

"We were delighted with your World Rainforest Report No.1 ... We are a small society which has nevertheless made itself felt and the message of Conservation is catching on, but, like all third world countries, our situation is pretty desparate and the last vestiges of our Rain Forest - a mere 16,000 acres, although declared a Man and Biosphere area - will soon be gone ... In an effort to preserve at least other people's Rain Forests we are writing to your Prime Minister regarding the Greater Daintree National Park and to the President of Sierra Leone. Just another cry in the wilderness?"

Provash Ronjan Dey, Indian Council of Rural Youth, 4/2 Jadav Ghosh Rd. Calcutta - 700061, INDIA:

"As per direction of our executive committee, I am to inform you that our council is willing to participate in a world-wide rainforest action campaign."

Bettan Sundberg, Ekimedia, box 15 260, S 104 65, Stockholm, SWEDEN:

"... Ekimedia is an alternative news agency with offices in London, Berlin, Oslo, Trondheim, Copenhagen, Helsinki and here in Stockholm..."

Klawt Biemans, Postbus 900, 5000 AX Tilburg, NETHERLANDS:

"I read about your actions to save the rainforest in the Dutch magazine 'De Vrie' this month. These actions are highly necessary. Now I work for a youth magazine "Zone 3". I think its a good thing to write about your actions too. But therefor I'd like to know: - What can Dutch people (14 to 20 years old) do, to really stop the destruction of the rainforest all over the world? Are there any active groups already in Holland or Belgium? Do you know if any of the destroying companies like Levers Pacific Timbers have offices or factories in Holland or Belgium?"

Magnus Hellquist, Kaptensgatan 15, 114 57 Stockholm, SWEDEN:

"Hello, I read about your Rainforest Information Centre in the paper TARAXACUM and got very interested in your work ... I am an activist in a Swedish organisation called Faltbrolögema which is built up by young people 7 - 25 years that are interested in nature."

Larry Ingersoll, Kick it Over Collective, POB 5811 Station A, Toronto, Ontario, CANADA M5W 1P2:

"... here we are, an anarchist/ecologist/feminist grouplet and journal ... send us stuff and we'll spread the word."

REVIEWS REVIEWS

"Ecological principles of tropical lowland rainforest conservation" by F.S.P. Ng in Tropical Rainforest Ecology and Management 1983 18 pp.

"The conservation of areas of forest large enough to be self-sustaining must remain the paramount objective in nature conservation." In presenting this message about tropical rainforests the author provides much information on forest and tree structure, distribution patterns and regeneration biology, using examples from S.E. Asia and particularly Malaya. The article illustrates the complexity of rainforests - that they are the most fragile of all vegetation types on earth and that they lack mechanisms to compete with gross human interference. For those interested in conserving more than just remnant pieces of rainforest, the main value of the paper lies in this information.

Ng however perceives that "perhaps within 10-30 years, much of tropical forest management will have to be remedial management of vulnerable remnants" which are currently in small national parks and reserves and which may be already having their original character undermined by a variety of forces. The problem that will soon need addressing, is, as the article says, "how when and where to apply remedial management". The author makes recommendations which if adopted would no doubt help prevent deterioration of the small rainforest national parks. However as s/he points out these are all heavily dependent on continual human effort; thus the need for large reservations of forests. One of the other publications being reviewed (Earthscan) states that one estimate of the minimum critical area needed for the survival of a tropical moist forest is around 2,500 sq. km, but estimates vary widely.

"Tropical Deforestation: A Global view" by Nicholas Guppy, 1984, 17pp. Tropical Moist Forests: The Resource, The People, The Threat Published by International Institute for Environment and Development, London, An Earthscan Paperback. Available from Earthscan, 10 Percy St., London WIPOOR, UK. Price 3 pounds (\$7.00 plus postage).

These two reports provide a wealth of information on the condition of, and threats to the world's rainforests and their inhabitants. The facts and figures presented are similar in both and show the enormity of the problem of rainforest destruction. Both reports could easily be used to present and promote the cause of rainforest conservation. Active conservationists and teachers would find them valuable references. The Earthscan book in particular presents its information in an easily readable point format under a number of major headings. Topics covered include: a description of the forests' values - soil, wildlife, people, potential for new medicines, food, crops, etc. the causes problems and effects of deforestation; action and proposals - research, agroforestry, forest-dwellers' rights, self-help, etc. It is an especially useful reference book which could easily be used as an introductory text to the rainforest conservation issue. Guppy's article presents disturbing information similar to that in the Earthscan book but gives a conservative estimate of the finances needed to tackle rainforest deforestation adequately. He estimates that funds totalling between \$1,200 and \$3,500 billion would be needed over the next 16 years in rainforest nations for human settlement, reforestation and plantation establishment, industrial plant and equipment, fuelwood plantations, and that without these funds things will get worse. He suggests the establishment of an Organization of Timber Exporting Countries (similar to OPEC) as a mechanism by which Governments of rainforest nations could control timber exports and rainforest exploitation.

Both reports indicate where conservationists' efforts could best be applied supporting the struggles of indigenous peoples against forest destruction; promotion of aid for true "sustainable" development; increased exposure of the social causes of forest destruction; and tackling the 'demand' in industrial nations for the products coming from rainforest destruction.

"Medicinal Plants Need Extensive Safeguarding" Conservation Foundation Newsletter, November '82, 8pp. (The Conservation Foundation, 1717 Massachusetts Ave. N.W., Washington D.C. 20036).

This publication makes out an excellent case for the conservation of tropical forests and other ecosystems purely on the basis of their potential to supply humanity with many useful and valuable medicines.

History has shown the immense contribution medicinal plants have made to human well-being. However some experts estimate that one plant in ten is threatened and could be lost in the next 15 years. Without adequate IN SITU conservation of genetic diversity, many potentially valuable medicines will be lost.

Tropical rainforest contains perhaps half of the world's species and will continue to be a vitally important source of medicines - if they can survive the continuing onslaught of inappropriate human development. This report estimates that the annual cost of an effective world conservation programme to protect the earth's genetic diversity equals the amount the world spends on armaments every 90 minutes.

"Fire and the Energy Efficiency of Swidden Agriculture" by A. Terry Rambo, Asian Perspectives 23 (2) 1980 8pp.

"Swidden (slash and burn) farming also has a number of ecological advantages in the difficult environmental conditions of the Asian tropical forest. It gives reliable yields with minimum susceptibility to pest outbreaks and, when practiced AT APPROPRIATE LEVELS OF POPULATION DENSITY, (our emphasis) causes little long-term degradation of the productive capacity of the environment...So well is swidden farming adapted to the humid tropics that, despite much effort, agricultural researchers have yet to perfect alternative systems having comparable ecological and social merits. In fact, the thrust of much current work is to try to improve shifting cultivation rather than try to replace it with fixedfield systems. Swidden farming thus deserves much of the esteem in which it is currently held by ecological anthropologists. However it does not merit the acclaim it has received as a farming system that uses energy with extraordinary efficiency."

Examining the role of fire in swidden agriculture and its energetics, the author concludes that when "the overlooked energy input of fire (burning the forest) is taken into account, the reputed energy efficiency of swidden agriculture disappears.

----- I.Y.F

Regnskovsgruppen Nepenthes

Conservation Center for Humanecology, Byning 325, lok 132, 8000 Aarhus, Denmark (together with IYF and the Dutch work group, above) have issued the following invitation:

"At an international meeting on rainforests at Klostermolle, Denmark, organized by the International Youth Federation for Environmental Studies and Conservation, it was decided that we will focus our attention in the near future on rainforests and rainforest destruction in Kalimantan, Indonesia.

Our activities will consist of the following parts:

1. Information gathering; to become as well as possible informed about the natural and non-natural situation of Kalimantan at present, and short-term and long-term prospectives.
2. Writing articles for some environmental magazines and for the general press. Press information should be given out in as many countries as possible.
3. A friendly, non-violent action towards the Indonesian government (embassies), that nevertheless will attract the attention of press and public. This will make clear to the Indonesian government that many people are very concerned about their policy and tolerance towards foreign and local companies that tend to have a destructive impact on the tropical rainforests.

Our purpose is to do a combined action in as many countries as possible at the same time, on a date to be chosen in autumn 1984.

If you agree with the idea, we strongly ask you to cooperate with us on all or part of the activities. Please let us know as soon as possible. Any suggestions are welcome. We will then send you further information on how the actions may be performed.

This letter is sent to 18 organizations all over the world. Besides an information-request letter was sent to 12 organizations to add to the data we already have. A copy is included here. If you can send us any information on Kalimantan, this would be very welcome!"

The Rainforest Information Centre will certainly be taking part in this combined action. Please write to one of these groups and take part.



Rudi Jansma, Working Group for the Conservation of Tropical Rainforests, Stichting Natuur en Milieu, Donkerstraat 17, 3511 KB Utrecht.

"...We understand that you are interested in global networking of groups that are concerned about the rainforest ecosystems. Our group is one of these, and we think it is extremely valuable and important that groups should contact and know of each others activities. The rainforests are not just of local interest but belong to the whole Earth and groups like ours should embrace our globe together. ... In 1981 we wrote a notation about the activities of Levers Pacific Timbers on the Solomon Islands. This resulted in questions posed to the European Commission by a member of the European Parliament, who is also one of the founders of our working group. In the same period one of us had a talk with the directory of Unilever (which admitted the activities, but denied that Unilever did any harm). ...As to our Working Group in general:

Our activities can roughly be divided into four aspects:

-information (within the Netherlands)

*we have an information map for highschools etc. with articles on different aspects of the tropical rainforests and its threats (about 60 pages)

*slide series (focussed on elementary schools)

*a movable exhibition (about 20 recycled-wood panels with photos and text plus diorama, which has already been visited and appreciated by many thousands of people)

*organizing symposia

*organizing lectures

*an information centre

-influencing national and international policy, which runs via contacts with the Dutch and European parliaments.

-research. At the moment we are undertaking a research to possible alternatives for the (increasing) use of tropical hardwoods. This is focussed on the Netherlands, but of course the results may be of very much international importance.

-action, in the form of giving publicity to the activities of (multinational) companies and/or governments in the tropical forest ecosystems in which the environment is seriously threatened. But of course, we are small and unimportant on an international scale: therefore worldwide cooperation is tremendously important.

One of our activities is still in an early stage: the composition of an international poster exhibition, which will become available as cheaply as possible, and which can easily be sent to anywhere in the world. The intention is to have 15 to 20 posters designed by groups in different tropical countries. We will coordinate this, in close cooperation with the International Youth Federation (IYF) in the Netherlands. At present groups in Colombia, Panama, India and Malaysia have reacted positively. We have contacted 7 persons all over the world who were present at a meeting in Paris where the original idea was born. If you are able to cooperate in this project you are very welcome to join us. At least any suggestions are welcome.

IN DEFENCE OF DAINTREE

by Ian Cohen and John Seed

Once more, conservationists are gathering in Australia's far north to prevent bulldozers from moving into the coastal lowland tropical rainforest wilderness. In December 1983, a small number of conservationists gathered for a spirited defence of this forest. They physically blockaded the local council's bulldozers in series of actions which confounded both workers and a strong contingent of police.



The month-long direct action campaign witnessed 40 arrests while conservationists successfully utilised the resources of the natural environment. They locked themselves high up in trees, buried each other up to their necks in the path of the machinery, and suspended themselves from ropes between trees marked for felling. Police were forced to employ rescue equipment and a lot of hard work to extract and arrest the demonstrators. Hostility was succeeded by incredulity as police swung from trees and dug protesters out of the ground.

When the rains started in earnest, creeks flooded the access routes. One critical section of the track took on the appearance of a muddy football field in the late stages of a match as the environmentalists, wet, muddy and slippery, successfully brought the dozers to a halt.

The police then stated that they would be returning in six hours with reinforcements and helicopters. That was six months ago, and the blockade of logs at the start of the new scar in the forest still stands. The chains with which the protesters bolted themselves to trees or to the earth, are rusty but ready for use. The weather has cleared and the council has stated their intention to resume work on the road. Sixty to eighty conservationists have set up camps at both ends of the proposed road and more are arriving daily.

The proposed road is only the thin end of the wedge regarding development in this splendid Greater Daintree wilderness. The Queensland Forestry Department has plans to log virgin rainforest as access becomes possible. Tin miners are working nearby. Real estate developers (who have been carving similar lowland rainforest into two acre residential blocks nearby) are anxious to expand their activities.

The forests of the Greater Daintree are refugia for many species like Bennetts Tree Kangaroo - rare, endangered, endemic. Their habitat is suffering accelerated destruction though much of the flora and fauna is undescribed and awaits study.

Botanists regard the area as a living museum. Studies of fossilised pollen show that the forest has inhabited the region continuously for over a hundred million years, undisturbed by volcanic activity or incursions by the sea. Before continental drift broke Australia apart from Antarctica, South America, Africa and the rest of Gondwanaland, these forests existed in this place, and the presence here of the most primitive of all flowering, fruiting plants, leads scientists to speculate that this may have been the birthplace of flowering plants upon the earth.

The International Union for the Conservation of Nature has identified the tropical forests as being the world's number one conservation priority. The Director-General of the I.U.C.N. has written to Australian Prime Minister Bob Hawke (who was, after all, elected on a conservation ticket last year) urging him to: "... do all possible to save this important area of world heritage quality."

Such expressions of interest and concern from around the world must strongly influence Australia's perception of the situation and of our duties to the tropical rainforests.

Please write to Bob Hawke urging him to consider Australia's international obligations and her obligations to the biosphere. A deadlock between State and Federal Governments is interfering with plans to list Australia's moist tropics as World Heritage. This stalemate can be tipped in the rainforests favour by international pressure. Tell Hawke that Australia's duties to maintenance of the biosphere must not be blocked by the short-sighted State Government in Queensland. Also, please write to one or more Australian newspapers listed below expressing concern that Australia is not playing her part in preserving the world's tropical forests.

Some points to consider:

The rainforests contain fully half of the ten million species of plants and animals on earth - the very womb of life. The continued evolution of life on this planet depends on the survival of the genetic materials that these forests contain.

The continued existence of the rainforests beyond the first few years of the next century is in doubt unless action is taken immediately. In Australia as in the rest of the world, lowland tropical rainforest is the richest, most diverse and most threatened rainforest type.

Australia, as the only developed country to contain tropical rainforest, has the moral duty to show the way to those poorer nations which will have to take steps to preserve their tropical rainforests if the genetic future of the earth is to be maintained.

The Prime Minister, The Rt. Hon. R.J. Hawke, Parliament House, Canberra, A.C.T. Australia.

The Editor, Sydney Morning Herald, 235 Jones St. Broadway, N.S.W. Australia.

The Editor, The Age, 250 Spencer St. Melbourne, Australia.

The Editor, The Courier Mail, Campbell St. Bowen Hills, Brisbane 4006, Australia.



FUELWOOD

In WRR 1 we carried an item by Mr. Fred Hottenroth, President of the ZZ Stove Corporation pointing out that correctly designed woodstoves can provide more efficient utilisation of wood fuel. He suggested that if the two billion people who use wood for fuel, burned the wood more efficiently, destruction of the forests would be dramatically slowed.

Not everyone agrees. According to a report published by the British group, Earthscan, the millions of dollars being poured into developing more efficient stoves are not addressing the real question.

"Stoves and Trees" (3 pounds.50 from Earthscan, 10 Percy St. London W1P 0DR) suggests that clearing for farmland, not for fuelwood is more often the driving force behind deforestation, that the high rates of efficiency quoted for some stoves don't transfer from the laboratory to the hearth, that the stoves often deteriorate quickly and that new and improved stoves - the real efficiency of which this publication questions - are not likely to be widely available to poor people. While not rejecting any benefits of improved stoves outright, this booklet, along with others that we have received, does question many of the assumptions behind these projects.



The NSW Parliament has approved the Government's intention to nominate 10 NSW National Parks and three nature reserves to the Federal Government for inclusion in the World Heritage list.

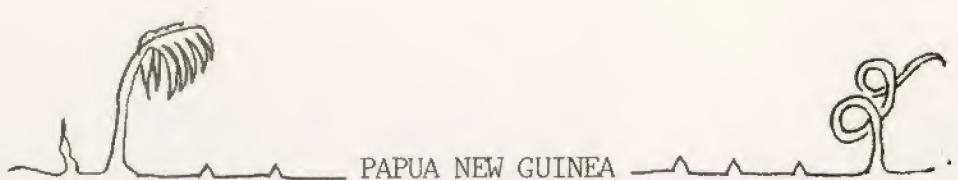
The World Heritage is a UNESCO convention which provides for the listing of outstanding examples of the world's cultural and natural heritage. More than sixty countries have signed the convention.

The "conservative" opposition party in NSW has pledged to allow logging within the rainforest National Parks if elected, and World Heritage listing would oblige the Federal Government of the day to step in if the area were threatened.

The Premier of NSW, Neville Wran, in commenting on his Government's nomination has said:

"Our rainforests are absolutely unique in this world. It is my belief that when future generations look back and judge the activities, not only of this government but of this generation, our preservation of the rainforest will be regarded as possibly our single greatest achievement."

Premier Wran has written an introduction to the Rainforest Information Centre's publication "Scientists Write to Premier Wran about Rainforest" which is now available.



An interesting article in the PNG Times, February 23, 1984 (two pages) by University of PNG lecturer, Alan Smith, describes the country's biggest and most controversial timber project - the JANT (Japan and New Guinea Timber Co.) operation in Madang province. We learn that after the clearfelling, "The soil is ruined ... wildlife is gone, the fish are gone, the clear water is gone."

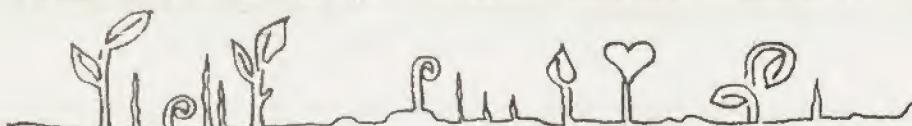
As the natural vegetation of over 90% of New Guinea is rainforest, most of it "undeveloped", it is a matter of great concern to read in the PNG Times of December 16 1983 that the rate of harvesting is to increase from 1.5 Cu.M/ year to 4 million Cu.M/year "...in line with pressure from landowners for development". Surely some more sound and sustainable form of development could be found than selling their rainforests to the Japanese as whole logs or pulp?

The Rainforest Information Centre is initiating a project in PNG similar to our Solomon Islands project (two page report) where ecological education in pijin will be distributed throughout the country and sustainable development projects will replace multinational loggers for groups willing to reserve their rainforests for customary uses only.

Friends of the Earth PNG (P.O. Box 554 Konedobu, PNG) "...have come to the conclusion that our main field of action should be on the wholesale destruction of rainforest by clearfelling..." They are looking for someone to produce a documentary film on the subject.

We learn from them that whole logs accounted for 99% of tropical forest imports to Japan in 1982. They have produced a tape-slide presentation of the JANT operation and "The situation and the grievances of the people of Gogol, Madang Province, PNG."

The following quote from a villager named Wejip is from the transcript of this presentation (21 pages): "They have spoiled our life. What is their justification for spoiling us? The things that have been spoiled are all the things belonging to the forest; the wildlife, the fish in the rivers, our drinking water, things we used to eat and the customs of our ancestors, everything is finished. The forest soil is the backbone of our life; it has been so since our ancestors time up until now, but now that too is finished."



As mentioned in the first World Rainforest Report, we are planting trees as well as defending them. Gai has planted the following native species for the Rainforest Information Centre:

Lilly Pilly; Red Carabeen; Deep Yellow Wood; Foam Bark; Brown Tamarind; Brush Cherry; Strangler Fig; Pencil Cedar; Coachwood; Watergum; Rose Marara; Yellow Carabeen; Turpentine; Brushbox; Red Lilly Pilly; White Booyong; Red Cedar; Tulipwood; Flame Tree; Twin Leaf Coogera; Blue Quandon; White Beech; Burdekin Plum; Green Tamarind; Broad-leaved Lilly Pilly; Plum Pine; Native Frangipani; Shining Burrawong; Hoop Pine; Bangalow Palm.

TARAXACUM - Journal of the International Youth Federation,
Klostermollevæj 48, DK -8660 Skanderborg, Denmark.

Taraxacum Vol 3 No. 2, 1984 presents vital information on campaigns that have developed to protect tropical rainforests in a number of countries. Send to IYF for copies of Taraxacum and distribute them in your area or to other groups.

Threats to rainforests in Peru, Sierra Leone, Ghana and Kalimantan are discussed and contacts for the respective campaigns are provided, as are some suggestions for action. They also promote the world rainforest action network in this issue.

IYF is initiating an international campaign to help save the Manu National Park in Peru.

Manu National Park was established in 1973 and was made a MAB Biosphere Reserve in 1977. It is located at the eastern edge of the Andes in southern Peru and covers an area of 1.5 million hectares. The park is inhabited by several Indian groups whose right to continue their traditional lifestyle is protected by law. Vegetation ranges from scrub jungle to tropical rainforest and has a great diversity of wildlife.

However, massive development of the Amazonia region of Peru is planned in an attempt by the government to solve the country's economic problems.

The park and its inhabitants are now threatened by:

Oil exploration (Shell);
A new road;
A canal project and helicopter landing site;
The establishment of a military base;
Logging.



MANU NEEDS YOU! - Show the President of Peru that the world cares for Manu and its people. Write to him expressing your opposition to exploration of this park: His Excellency, Fernando Belaunde Terry, President, Palacio de Gobierno, Lima, PERU.

The article from Sierra Leone shows that postcard campaigns are useful for putting pressure on governments. However more support is needed in this campaign. A report by West German foresters was a whitewash of the logging operations. The exportation of Sierra Leone's natural wealth to rich West Germany continues.

Farming, logging and human-caused bushfires are destroying Ghana's forests, while export logging and Indonesia's transmigration program threaten the rainforests of Kalimantan. For information and offers of help contact, IYF (see their letter this issue).

It has also come to light that Kalimantan was last year the scene of one of the world's environmental disasters. 3.5 million hectares of rainforest were destroyed by fire between February and June.

The cause is as yet unkown, but the Indonesian Government continued to deny the fire's existence till smoke closed the airport at Surabaya, Java. Secrecy and failure to act were apparently promoted in fear of price decreases for Indonesian timber company stocks. The severity of the fire was linked to the long drought in the region caused by the "El Nino" weather pattern.

IRIAN JAYA

The impact of the Indonesian transmigration project on the forests and indigenous peoples of Irian Jaya, are discussed in ECOFORUM, Vol. 9 No. 1 1984. Forests are being cleared for towns, agriculture and timber. The culture and lifestyles of tribal communities are being destroyed.

ECOFORUM is obtainable from Environment Liason Centre, PO Box 72461 Nairobi, KENYA.

MERCHANDISE AVAILABLE

Subscriptions to World Rainforest Report are \$8 for Australia, \$10 for the U.S. and \$12 elsewhere (airmail).

The document "World Scientists Write to Premier Wran about Rainforest" with an introduction by Premier Wran, and a glossy cover with a beautiful line drawing by Dailan Pugh is now available for \$3 (including postage in Australia overseas postage extra)

"Thinking Globally - Acting Locally" - 60 minute cassette tape of the direct actions in NSW which led to the preservation of our rainforersts. Documentary with original music - \$8 inc. postage.

TWO OF DAILAN'S LINE DRAWINGS (INCLUDING THE ONE ON THE BACK PAGE OF THIS ISSUE)HAVE BEEN MADE INTO GLOSSY POSTERS, 42CM.X 30 CM. \$4 EACH (INCLUDING POSTAGE WITHIN AUSTRALIA - OVERSEAS POSTAGE EXTRA).

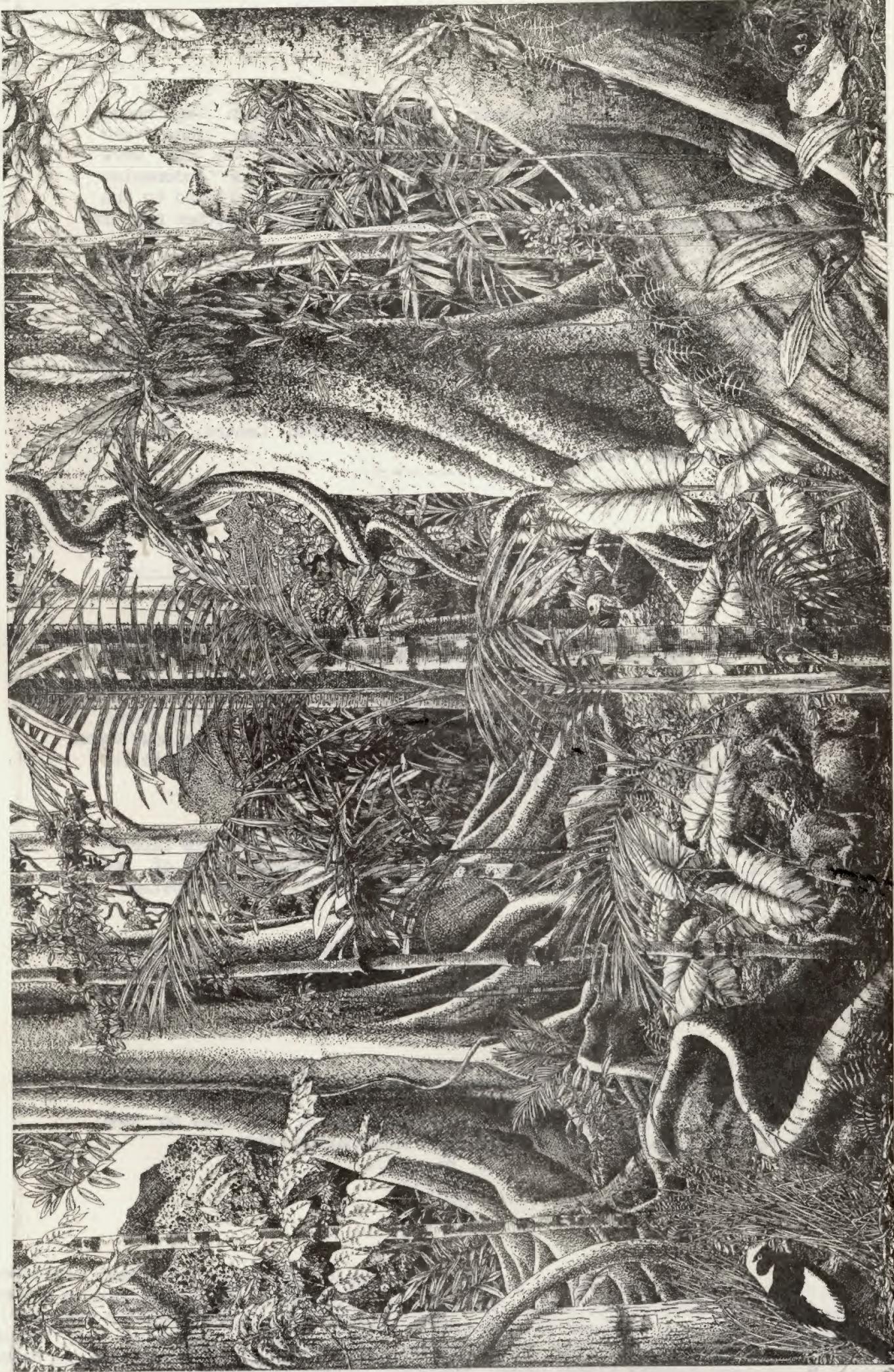
Donations to the Rainforest Information Centre from within Australia are tax-deductible, by making them out to the Australian Conservation Foundation and asking that they be used for the purposes of the Rainforest Information Centre.

The World Rainforest Action Network and the World Rainforest Report have been mentioned and reviewed extensively this year. Our materials have been translated into a number of languages, and have appeared in such journals as Grasswurtzel Revolution (Germany), BBC Wildlife, Greenline (U.K.), Mother Jones, Earth First!, Institute for Social Ecology Newsletter, Ozarkia, Planet Drum, Akwesasne Notes, Tranet, Survival Network Newsletter, (US), Sunset News (Solomon Islands); Earth Garden, F.O.E. Newsletter (Australia); Ekomedia Bulletin (Sweden) and many others.

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